DR. BURNETS

Vindication of *himself* from the Calumnies with which he is aſperſed, In a *Pamphlet*, entitled, *Parliamentum Pacificum*, licenſed by the Earl of *Sunderland*, and printed, at *London* in *March*, 1688.

A Silence for ſo many months, in which my name has been ſo much toſſed in libells, as well as in Gazettes, has ſhewed the world, with how much uneaſineſs I am drawn to ſay any thing, in my own defence, when ſo *ſacred a stamp* has been made uſe of to give an authority to what has been ſaid or done againſt me: A Chriſtian cannot fail when he goes by ſo divine a pattern as our Saviour himſelf has ſet the world. He when he was accuſed, for a great while *anſwered not a word*, yet at laſt being required to do it by the High Prieſt, he ſpoke for himſelf: *But when he was reviled, he reviled not again.*

In a humble Imitation of that Example, as I will uſe no reviling words, for all thoſe that are ſo liberally thrown out upon me, ſo the Juſtifying of my ſelf, being *now* become An Apology for the Protection that is granted me by the *States of Holland*, (whoſe ſubject I am) as well as for my ſelf, I am in ſome ſort forced, again to appear in my own Defence. If this Pamphlet had not carried ſuch a licence as it has in its front, and if the *States* had not been pleaſed to uſe it as they have done, I had paſſed over the Malice that is in it, with the ſame ſilence that I have obſerved on other occaſions. But it being judged neceſſary that I ſhould plead my own cauſe a little, ſince the *Protection* that the *States* give me has made it now likewiſe theirs, and that it may appear that they have no juſt reaſon to be aſhamed of me, I ſhall anſwer all that relates to my ſelf, except the foul language that is in it. But I will repeat nothing that was in the *Paper* that I publiſht laſt *June*: in which I ſet down the firſt *Citation*, together with the *Anſwers* that I made to it, and my letters to the Earl of *Middleton*, together with ſome reflections upon the whole matter, ſo I offer this only as a ſupplement to that Paper.

I will begin with ſetting down the ſecond *Citation*, after I have made this ſhort remark on the firſt, that thoſe very perſons, for concurring with whom, I was accuſed in it, being now pardoned and in Scotland, the Government *there*, has a ſure hand in their hands, to know the falſehood of that accuſation: ſo that thoſe who offered thoſe Informations againſt me, which gave the riſe to all that has ſince followed, ought to be look't on as *Calumniators*, and to be puniſhed accordingly: and if any ill choſen expreſſion had fallen from me in the letter that I writ to the Earl of *Middleton*, the privacy of the letter, the reſpect that was in it, and the provocation that drew it from me, (an Accuſation of High Treaſon, which is now Evidently made out to be a Calumny) all theſe, I ſay, give me ſome reaſon to conclude, that if a ſecret animoſity of ſome of my Enemies that have abuſed their credit with the King to my prejudice, had not wrought more than a regard to *Juſtice*, there had not been a ſecond proſecution, when the *Firſt* was found to be ſo ill grounded, that they were forced to let it fall. The *Citation* is in theſe words.

JAmes be the Grace of God King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland defender of the Faith, to our Lovites, Barrattus, Barrsetters, Aduocats and Messrs. of arrays, trumpetts and seuerall seruitts Conforme Greeting. Forsamekle as it is humbly meane et Complaind to us be our right trusty and speciall Counsellour Sr. John Dalrymple the younger of Stair our Aduocat for our Interest Upon Doctor Gilbert Burnet, That wher by the common Law / by the Acts of Parliament / and the municipall Lawes of this kingdome / the declyning in impugning our Soveraigne Authoritie or puting Treasonable Limitations upon the prerogatyve of our Crown upon the native allegeance due by any of our subjects borne Scots or ells wherein residing within our dominions or not / are declared to be High Treason / and punishable by the Paines due and determined in the Law for treason. Nevertheless it is of veritie That Doctor Gilbert Burnet, who is a Scotsman by birth and education / being cited at the pear and shoar of Leith at the instance of our Aduocat for severall treasonable Crymes to underly the law by vertue of particular Command from us direct to the Lords of our priuy Councill / and ane act of our said priuy Councill hereupon ordering our Aduocat to persue the process / Instead of appearing before the Lords of Justitiary Doctor Gilbert Burnet did write and subscribe a letter dated at the Hague the third day of May last / directed to the Earle of Middletoune one of our principal Secretaries of Scotland for our kingdome of England: In the which the said Doctor Burnet That in respect the Affairs of the United Provinces falls to his Lordships share in the Ministry There-

fore he makes the following Addresses to his Lordship / and to him to us / and gives ane account that he is certiorat of the process of treason execute against him at the instance of our Aduocat; And for answer there to the Doctor Writes / that he hes bein threttein years out of the kingdome of Scotland, and that he is now upon the point of Marrying in the Netherlands, and that he is naturalized by the States of Holland, and that therby during his stay there his Allegeance is translated from us to the Soveraignty of the Province of Holland; and in the end of his letter he Certifies / that if this decly nature be not taken of his hand to sist the proces / he will appeir in print in his own defence / and will not so far betray his own Innocence as to suffer a thing of that nature to pass upon him / In which he will make a recitall of Affairs that hes passed these twenty years / and a vast number of particulars which he beleives will be displeasing to us; and therfor desires that he may not be forced to it / which is a direct declyning of our Authority / denying of his allegeance to us / and asserting that his Allegeance is translated from us to the Soveraignty of the States of Holland. And a threatning us to expose / traduce / disparage and belie our Government / and the publict Actings for twentie years past; Though he ack nowledges it will be displeasing to us Yet by a most Indiscreet and disloyall insolence he threatens to doe it in contempt Except forsooth wee will acquiesse and suffer the decly nature of our Royall Authority and pass from the proces as having no Allegeance due to us from the Doctor / &c.

After this follows the form of Law ordinary in such Citations, by which I am required to appear, on the 9th. day of *August*, in order to my Triall, which was to be six days after that, under the pains of being declared a *Rebell* and a *Fugitive*; and all bears date the 10th. of June 1687.

I shall offer only two exceptions to this, in point of form; 1st there is no *Speciall law* set forth here, upon which I am to be *Judged*; which, as I am Informed by those who understand the *Law of Scotland* makes the Citation *null* in point of forme; since *High Treason* is a Crime of such a nature, that no man can be concluded guilty of it, but upon [illegible] ciall Law. 2d, In Criminal matters: no Presumption of any Writing upon the similitude of Hands, are so much as admitted by the Law of *Scotland*, so that all such Proofs are only Generall Presumptions; and therefore since there is no other Proof that can be pretended in this case; it is not possible according to the grounds and practise of the *Scottish* Law, to find me

me Guilty upon this *Citation*. Upon my not appearance on the ninth day of *August*, the matter was for some time Delayed. At last a *Writ* was issued out against me called in the Law of Scotland *Letters of Horning*, because they are published with the blast of a *Horn*, in which I am declared the Kings *Rebell*: but this is not issued out upon the account of the *matter* in the Citation, of which no Cognisance has been taken: But only for my not appearance to offer my self to *Triall*: and the operation of this in law, is only the putting me out of the *Kings Protection*, and the present seising on my personall Estate, and after a year the seising any thing that I enjoy for *term of life*: but this writ does neither affect my *life*, nor my *posterity*, nor can an *Estate of Inheritance* be so much as *Confiscated* by it: and tho the term *Rebell* is put in it, that word is only a *form of law*: for every man that does not pay his debts is liable to such a *writ*, and he is Declared the *Kings Rebell*, just as the *Chancery* in *England*, issues out a *Writ of Rebellion* upon Contempts: so that if the being called a *Rebell* in such a *writ*, gives the Government a right to Demand me, then every man that retires into *Holland*, either out of *England* or *Scotland*, upon the account of a disorder in his affairs, may be demanded, as soon as any such Writ goes out against him.

As for the manner of this *Citation*, I said so much upon it in my former *Paper*, that since no answer has been made to that, I do not think it necessary to say any more, then what will occur to me in the account of the Progress of this affair. Mr. d'Albeville his Majesties Envoy, did in the Moneth of *July* last, put in a *Memorial* against me, which being already in *Print*, I shall only offer here the abstract of it. *In the Preamble it sets forth, that whereas I had obtained letters of Burgership in the Town of* Amsterdam; *In the vertue thereof these Letters being presented to the States of* Holland, *by the said Town I had obtained the Protection of the States, with which I was not satisfied, but by my Libells I defamed the King and his Government: of which it offered two Instances: one, that I represented my self as Persecuted upon the account of Religion, which was so false, that all Religions were tolerated by the King: The other was, that I pretended that my life was in danger: for which, if I had any grounds, I ought to have represented it to the Kings Ministers in* England, *or to his Minister here: and that it was Notorious that the greatest of all Criminalls, were in safety here, for fear to draw upon themselves his Majesties displeasure: who abhorrs such practises, tho by the Kings Lawes every one of his subjects, was warranted to seise on them here, in what manner soever: upon all which it concluded, that the States ought to punish both me, and my Printer, without naming him.*

I hope I may without being wanting to the respect due to his Character, make some observations on this. It is well known, that I was never made *Burgess of Amsterdam*, so that all the Preamble falls: and it appears, that the *Envoy* has not taken the pains that forreigne Ministers ordinarily do, to be rightly informed of this matter; when he began to move in it, I applied my self Immediatly to the *States of Holland*, in order to my being *Naturalised*, and in my Petition I set forth the Reason of it, which ever since *Solons Lawes*, has been thought the justest ground for it, and that was a *Marriage*, and this was no pretended colour, for I was *contracted* the same day. I had lived before that a year at the *Hague*, and I saw clearly a storm coming upon me, yet I had used no precaution to cover my self from it: but when a *Marriage* and a setlement in *Holland*, made it necessary for me to desire the Rights and Priviledges of the Countrey, it cannot be thought strange if I petitioned for it: and the *States*, who know how long I had both lived and preached publickly at the *Hague*, under the eyes of two of the Kings Ministers, one after another, saw no sort of reason, so much as to deliberate upon my petition, but granted it to me as a *thing of course*: As for the matter, that His Majesties *Envoy* objected to me, I said nothing in the paper I printed but *what plainly contradicts the first point*: my words relating to it are, *that it is yet too early to see on a Persecution for matters of Religion, and therefore Crimes against the State must be pretended and fastned on those whom those men intend to destroy*. Now it is plain, that by *those men*, I intend *those* who had Informed against me, the matters that are in the first *Citation*, and that being let fall as a *Calumny*, too grosse to be any longer supported, I had all reason to pass that censure on *those men*. But these words cannot be supposed to have any relation to the *King*, unless in that part of them, that it is yet *too early to Persecute for matters of Religion*, which import that *my Enemys* dare not attempt to carry his Majesty to that; so that this period in my paper is evidently contrary to the Inference that is drawn from it.

The 2d point is no better grounded: since I published nothing relating to the *Danger* in which I *was*, but my *Letters* to the Earl of *Midleton*, so that I had begun my Complaints to him: but I was never encouraged to go to the naming of particulars. As for that period, that *the greatest of Criminalls are here safe from such Attempts, for fear of drawing upon them-*

[illegible] Pandora] certainly the Envoy was in fault, when he drew it; for the want of a clear sight into, or slight, that is common to the earliest off-spring of the French tongue: shall these those Criminalls, are not afraid to Draw upon them selves the King's displeasure by attempting on their Person. So that some such words as these (all in a right good subjects avoiding such prolixity for fear of Offending upon themselves his Displeasure) must be supposed to make the period Clear sense. But if I had any apprehensions of Danger before this Memorial, they are justly encreased by it, since the Envoy concludes the paragraph, by saying, that every one of the King's subjects were warranted by his Laws, to seize on such here in what manner soever (a s'y emparer en quelque maniere que ce soit) in what manner soever does always, on such occasions, signify either Dead or Alive. Now when the Kings Envoy did in a Memorial to the States, which was afterwards printed, assert, that this was Lata, It is easy to infer from hence, what just apprehensions this might suggest to me. As for his desire to have me Punished for that libell, he did it that Appeal which he made, to the Justice of the States, acknowledge me to be their subject: but if I have by printing of it, or any other Paper, made my self liable to the punishment of the States, the Complaint ought to have been made in the form of Law, to the Court of Holland, as it would be in England to the Kings Bench, since the States themselves do continue into the profession of Justice, and to that Court I must humbly submit my self, and acknowledge, that if I am justly my self of every thing that can be laid to my Charge, they ought to punish me with the utmost severity of Justice. Since a man whose Profession, as he ought to be an Example of good behaviour, so he ought not to make an Example of Justice, when he brings himself within the compass of the Law.

This was the first step that was made in my affair, which lay in this state till the Envoys return from England in December last: upon which he gave in a long Memorial; of which I was made one Article. He set forth, that I being now subject & a Rebell and Fugitive in Scotland, the States were bound by Alliance me or to banish me out of their Dominions, and [illegible] that the one might be executed. Upon this I was called before several of the Deputies of the States: and both the Envoy's Memorials being read to me, I was required to offer what I had to say upon them. I could not but take the notice of the great difference, that was between them. The first complaining of me as a subject of the States, and demanding that I might be punished by them, and the second, declaring me their Soveraigns subject. To the first, I answered by reading to them the Resolutions that I have already mentioned. To the second, I said, I could not be a Fugitive, since I had come out of Scotland fourteen years ago, and after eleven years stay in England, had come out of it three years ago, by the Kings Decree. As for my being a Rebel; I could answer nothing to that, till I saw the Judgment that had passed upon me: but I was now the Subject of the States, and as I humbly claimed their Protection, so I pretended to my Protection against Justice: but offered my self to a Tryal if any thing was laid to my charge. This being reported to the States of Holland, they were so far satisfied with my Answer, that the substance of it was put in the form of an Answer to the two Memorials. The whole amounts to this, that I was become their subject by being naturalized before this present Envoy came to me: so that I am now under their Protection. But if there is any thing to be objected to me, that can draw a Tryal, they will give order that full and speedy Justice shall be done upon it, in the Court of Holland.

Upon this a 3d Memorial was given in; to which the Articles of the Treaty, between the King and the States, were annexed, relating to Fugitives and Rebels; and it was said in it, that the States were bound to execute these with relation to me, without taking upon them to examin the grounds, upon which the sentence was past. And because here lies the strength of the whole matter, I shall offer some Considerations upon it, as will I hope satisfy all persons.

1. No Sentence is either passed or produced against me: for I am not declared by any Judgment either Rebell or Fugitive; and by the 7th Article all Condemnations ought to be notified by publick and Authentick letters: which must be understood of a Record of the Sentence; that ought to be produced: whereas there is nothing shewed in my case but only a Memorial. 2. All Treaties, especially in the odious parts of them, are to be understood according to the common acceptation of the termes contained in them, and not according to the particular forms of any Courts of Justice; the common acceptance of Fugitive is a man that flys away after a crime committed, from the prosecution of Justice; and a Rebell in the common acceptation is a man that has born Armes against his Prince: since then I am not so much as charged with either of these, I cannot be comprehended in the Article of the Treaty, for this must be the only sense, according to which the States are bound to deny harbour to Declared Rebells and Fugitives. 3. That which puts an end to the whole matter is, that before I writ that Letter, upon which

which

which I am now proſecuted. I was become a *Subject of the State*, and by *Conſequence* was no more in a Capacity to be either the King's *Rebell* or *Fugitive*. And the point of *Naturalizing Strangers*, is now ſuch an undoubted Prattice, that the right of granting it, is inſeparable from *Soveraigne Power*: ſo that either the *States* have this Right as they are no more a *free and Soveraigne State*; And the obligations of honour that all *Soveraigns* comm under to protect thoſe whom they *naturaliſe*, againſt every thing but their own *Juſtice*, is no dark point of Law: but is that which every *Prince* knows and practiſes as oft as there is occaſion for it. The King of *France* has uſed all the *Naturaliſed Strangers* in the ſame manner that he has *his own ſubjects*, in the point of *Religion*: and tho the *French Proteſtants*, that are gone into *England*, are according to the ſeverity of the *Edicts* paſſed againſt them, made *Criminalls* for flying out of that Kingdom, ſo that according to the Letter of thoſe Edicts they are *Fugitives*, yet the King has received them all, owned them for his Subjects, *naturaliſed* ſome, and ſupplyed others of them, by a Bounty truly worthy of ſo great a *Prince*; and if the *King* does this to thoſe of *Another Religion*, that do fly out of the Dominions of a Prince, with whom he is in peace; The *States* could not with any colours of reaſon, refuſe to *Naturaliſe* me who am of the *own Religion*, when after ſo long a ſtay among them, it appeared that the King had nothing to lay to my charge, and they having *Naturaliſed* me, if they ſhould with-draw their Protection, before I had forfeited it by any illegall Action of mine, they ſhould make a breach upon the *Publick Liberty*, upon which their Government is chiefly founded. And it is to be obſerved, that the *Treaty* between the *King* and *them*, as to the Articles concerning *Rebells* and *Fugitives*, is *Reciprocall*; as all the Ancient Treaties between the *Crown of England*, and the *Princes* of thoſe *Provinces*, before the formation of the Common-wealth, ever were as to this particular; ſo that they can be no more bound to the King by it, than the King is bound to them. Now let us ſuppoſe that the King *Naturaliſes* a Dutchman, by which he is admitted to all the Priviledges of an *Engliſhman*, if the *Dutch* ſhould after that condemn this perſon, as guilty of *Rebellion*, the King could not upon the *States* demanding of him deliver him up or baniſh him at his pleaſure, ſince this cannot be done arbitrarily to *any Engliſhman*, without a *legall tryall* by his *Peers*; and therefore it is plain that my caſe does not at all fall within the Articles of the Treaty, ſo that in this whole matter the *States* have acted as a free State, that was carefull to maintain its *Honour*, and to aſſert to their own *Juriſdiction* [illegible] and for my own part, I can appeal to all the Members of the *States* of *Holland*, if I made any Applications to them, as if I would deſire my ſafe ſtay being ſupported in oppoſition to the *Orders Nationall*. I ſtaid at home, while the thing was under conſultation, without making Addreſſe to any one of them as to my own particular. It is true, I would not withdraw of my own accord, from my own houſe, which I thought would have been a forſaking the Rights of the Country, a miſtruſting the Protection of my *Soveraigns*, as well as my own Innocence, and an abandoning of the poſt in which God by his Providence has placed me. And I am reſolved rather to run the riſque of all that with which I am threatned, than ſhow the leaſt unbecoming fear. I thank God I may make uſe of that common but Noble expreſſion, that *I am neither afraid to live, nor aſhamed to live*. I will not go further into dark thoughts, tho I know enough of the contrivances againſt me, by an *order of men*, whoſe ſouls are as black as their Habits. Tho for a great while I thought that the meanneſs of my perſon was ſuch, that no ſecret deſigns againſt me could not have counterballanced the Infamy of it.

Thus I hope thoſe hard words of *high treaſon*, or *Rebellion*, will make no impreſſions on any to my prejudice: for it is with them, as with *Blaſphemy* or *Hereſie*, which are very odious words, but it mens paſſions carry them to apply theſe to the moſt innocent things, they loſe their force, which is in them, and this will make the antient obſervation return into mens minds, that Treaſon was become the crime of thoſe (*qui ab omni crimine innocui erant*) who were free from all crimes; ſo when all this proſecution is ſo ſlightly founded, I make no doubt that the world will do me Juſtice in it, and I can as little doubt, that, if my cauſe could be ſo fairly repreſented to His Majeſty, that he might ſee it without thoſe falſe colours with which the Malice of my Enemies darken it, he who has of *Late* ſhewed a diſpoſition to receive even into his favour thoſe who were formerly eſteemed, both his *Fathers* Enemies, his *Brothers* and his *own*, would return to juſter and ſofter thoughts of me. For ſince I have done nothing that deſerves his *diſpleaſure*, it would be a greater crime, then any of which I ſtand accuſed, to think that it would be laſting.

This *Author* lays ſeveral *Papers* to my charge,

but he does not prove that they were writ by me: and I do not think my self obliged to satisfy every spiteful man, that will fasten all such things upon me, as he thinks will render me odious. I did solemnly purge my self of the matters laid to my charge in the first *Citation*; but I said then, that I would not give my Enemies the satisfaction of doing *that* any more; or of clearing my self, as oft as they should think fit to lay any thing to my charge: so when there is any thing brought against me in a legal way, I make no doubt but that I shall be able either to *clear my self of it*, or to *justifie my self in it*; But since this *Author* thought fit to fasten so many Papers on me which I have not *owned*, he should in common equity and decency, have taken some notice of a *Discourse* which I have *owned*: and that was my *Preface* to *Lactantius's book of the Deaths of the Persecutors*; in which I had pleaded against *Persecution*, perhaps with more force than most of those who have of late undertaken the Argument: I carried the point so far, as to include *even* the *Papists*, in that *General Toleration* which I recommended. This I had writ before either the Kings *Declaration* appeared, or that the Proceedings against me were begun: but tho the state of *Affairs* with relation to my self, was upon that altered; and the point was so *tender*, that I had reason to apprehend it might offend many of my *Brethren* and *best Friends*, at a time when I had no Reason to make *Enemies* to my self, yet I published it, without altering it in any one thing. In the circumstances in which I was, I could do nothing more to shew how far I was from desiring to imbroil matters then when I touched so nice a matter, with so much *plainness*. As for all the other Reproaches with which he pursues me, I think it below me to answer such a Scribler but for the sake of the *Licenser*; I take the liberty to say, that I am not afraid, neither of the *Calumnies*, nor the *Violences* of my Enemies. I lived many Years in *England* under a great deal of displeasure from the *Court*, and yet there never was found the least appearance of any *Guilt* in me, with relation to the *Government*. Many of my friends have had *pardons*, and by consequence did very probably discover all they knew of me: for I have been credibly Informed, that many have been Interrogated, and some under *Tortures* with relation to me: but there never appeared the least shadow of a guilty Compliance with ill Principles: not only was I free from accession to *all things*, I was free also even from faults of *Omission*, with relation to the *Publick*; for I never failed as oft as I saw the least occasion for it, to bear down all things that tended to disturb the *Publick Peace*, and this both in *Books*, in *Sermons*, and in *private Conversation*: and I have Compurgators in this matter, that are *beyond exception*, as well as *above Scandal*. I do not carry this matter further, tho I could say that which might cover all my Enemies with *Shame*: and which will perhaps appear to their amasement when they may have put an end to my being in this world.

I have ever gone by the Principles in which I was bred up at first, under a Father that from first to last, adhered to the *Kings Cause*, without so much as one stumble, or making even an Address of Civility to his Enemies: but was as much an Enemy to *Arbitrary Power*, as he was to *Rebellion*, and thought it was as base and unwarrantable a thing, for *Subjects* to give up their just and legal *Rights*, as it was for them to fly out upon every pretended violation of them. In these Principles I have fortified my self, by study and observation; and I may *Live* them, for they have stood me very Dear. I went no further than to assert an *obedience* and *submission* according to *Law* when I was Imployed to assert the *Lawes* of *Scotland*, against those who studied to overturn them, in which it was thought I did the *Government* some service, and for which the late *King* was pleased to thank me. It is true, I never could descend to the Methods of aspiring to *Preferment* that are expected in some *Courts*: but if this made some look on me as *Sullen* or *affected*, yet it might have freed me from the Imputations of being *Malecontent*, when there are many Vouchers for me, who know that I avoided all *Preferment* as Industrously, as the most ambitious do court it: I came under all Characters both in the *Court*, and elsewhere, because first and last I was always against the *Prosecution of the Dissenters*: and I always thought that greater endeavours ought to have been used for the Composing of the small Differences among our selves, and that greater gentleness ought to be expressed even to those who could not be brought within any termes of reconciliation.

These-

These were my only *Crimes* and *Heresies*; and for these Opinions I was represented as a favourer of the *Kings* and the *Churches* Enemies. And therefore is cannot but seem strange, that I, who was hardly used upon those accounts, should be now singled out to be the chief Instance of an unrelenting severity. The designs against my *Person*, seem not enough to satisfy that *Malice* that works so quick against me, but they must lash out on my *good name*, and my Reputation, which I confess is the greater tryall of the two to my *Patience*: but tho with relation to *God* I must Lay my hand on my mouth, and say, that *I am the Chief of sinners*; yet as to all men I may boldly say, *What have I done?* I hope God will not Lay to the charge of my Enemies, all *those* Slanders and all that Injustice with which they have prosecuted me.

This Author and some others have often given it out as if I had *Betrayed a Master*, and I may expect the next time, that they will say, that I *Murdered my Father*; for the one is as true as the other. I never had a *Master* but the *King* for the whole course of my life raised me above the *serving of any Subject*. A Design proposed to me, by one that is now dead, and therefore shall not be named by me, of bringing in an *Army* out of *Scotland* for the spoiling and subduing of *England*, gave me a just horrour at the proposition, and I did all I could to withstand it. The same *great Person* did quickly take up such a Jealousy of me, that he did all he could to ruin me, tho His present Majesty, who had then the *Goodness* for me to endeavour to pacifie him, owned to me that he could see nothing in his hatred of me, but a violent Passion: Yet he was resolved to throw me in a Prison where very Probably I had languished away the rest of my life, if the *King*, that now is, had not been so gracious to me as to warn me of my danger: which made me leave *Scotland*: and after I had suffered near two years, all that *Wrath* armed with *Power*, could do to me, at last while I was under one of the sharp effects of that great Ministers anger, I told a person of Honour that which I believed was one of the grounds of it. That Gentleman set this so about, that as he himself was a Member of the *House of Commons*, so it was known to a great many others; upon which I was sent for by the *House*; I declined for four several times, to say what had been proposed to me: and at last being threatned to be prosecuted by the *House* of *Commons* as an *Enemy to the Nation*, I was thus unwillingly brought to own it. But that *Great Man* fell no sooner under an Eclipse of favour then, tho I had felt the weight of his *Credit* for seven years together, I made not only all the steps necessary for a reconciliation, but I changed some then in *Power*, so far into his Interests, that he expressed a very thankful acknowledgment of it, and a perfect Reconciliation with me: Tho upon some reasons of his own our meeting was not thought convenient: and his own *Nephew*, who being now of the *Roman* Communion, is a Witness to whom I may the more freely appeal, brought me very kind Messages from him, and signified them to me after his death.

As for all the other things that can be objected to me, I pass them over, as things which can very little hurt me. This Author it seems pities *Varillas's* defeated Condition, who as my friends from *Paris* write to me, does not so much as pretend to justify himself of all those grois errours of which I have discovered him *Guilty*; but says, he has received an order from the King to Insist no more in the Dispute, in which he and I were engaged. Our Author will be a very fit person to succeed to that *Despicable Writer*; who fancies that I contradict my self, in setting forth, Q. *Maries Clemency* in one place, and yet shewing in another how *unmerciful* she shewed her self towards those that were condemned of *Heresy*. The best Natures in the World can be corrupted by a false Religion: and they being once possessed with cruell principles, the more *pious* they are, they will be the more true to the Doctrines of their Churches, and by consequence, they will execute all its severe Decrees with an unrelenting Rigour. And we have clear Instances of this in the Age in which we live; of *Princes* whose Inclinations to *Clemency*, are as well known as the Severities to which the credit of the *Society* has carried them are *Deplorable*.

There is another spiteful Insinuation with which I shall conclude my *Apology*: This Author finding that the *Matters* of *State*, for which he had accused me, were not like to blemish me much, resolved to try what he could do in a subject of another nature, which was indeed above him: for tho it seems he is entertained to scribble upon the Politicks, yet the matters of Divinity probably do not lie within his Province; but it seems he thought that any thing was to be ventured on that might Defame me. He represents me as an Enemy to the *Divinity of Jesus Christ*, because of the various readings of a verse in S. *John's Epistle*,